

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A message for communication among network elements, the message comprising:  
2 at least one media identifier including a first section and a second section; wherein the  
3 first section identifies one of a stored media file retrieved by a network element and  
4 an action item performed by the network element, and the second section identifies a  
5 media file type of the stored media file when the first section identifies the stored  
6 media file.
- 1 2. The message of claim 2, wherein the stored media file includes one of an  
2 announcement and a non-announcement type media file, the non-announcement type  
3 media file including media other than announcements and the announcement type  
4 media file including an announcement.
- 1 3. The message of claim 2, wherein the second section includes a first group of bits  
2 identifying whether an announcement or non-announcement type media file is  
3 identified by the at least one media identifier.
- 1 4. The message of claim 3, wherein the second section includes a second group of bits,  
2 and when an announcement type media file is identified by the first group of bits, the  
3 second group of bits identifies whether an announcement in the identified  
4 announcement type media file is interruptible or uninterruptible.
- 1 5. The message of claim 4, wherein the second group of bits identifies whether an  
2 interruptible announcement is interruptible with one of DTMF, speech and both  
3 DTMF and speech.
- 1 6. The message of claim 3, wherein when an announcement type media file is identified  
2 by the first group of bits, the first group of bits also identifying whether the  
3 announcement is a menu item.

- 1 7. The message of claim 6, wherein the second section includes a third group of bits,  
2 and when an announcement type media file is identified by the first group of bits, the  
3 third group of bits identifying a menu offset used to determine the next announcement  
4 to play to a caller.
- 1 8. The message of claim 7, wherein the at least one media identifier includes a plurality  
2 of media identifiers, and the menu offset is used to identify one of the plurality of  
3 media identifiers.
- 1 9. The message of claim 6, wherein the second section includes a third group of bits,  
2 and when a non-announcement type media file is identified by the first group of bits,  
3 the third group of bits identifies one of a media file format and an action item code.
- 1 10. The message of claim 1, wherein the media file includes one of video, fax, music,  
2 data and an announcement.
- 1 11. The message of claim 1, wherein the plurality of network elements include network  
2 elements in a telecommunications network.
- 1 12. The message of claim 11, wherein the telecommunications network includes an  
2 intelligent network, and the plurality of network elements include an intelligent  
3 peripheral and a service control point.
- 1 13. A system available to provide a multimedia service, comprising:  
2 a first network element transmitting a message, the message including at least one  
3 media identifier identifying a media file and including a first section and a second  
4 section; wherein the first section identifies one of a stored media file and an action  
5 item, and the second section identifies a media file type of the stored media file when  
6 the first section identifies the stored media file; and  
7 a second network element receiving the message and connectable to a database  
8 storing the media file.

- 1 14. The system of claim 13, wherein the first and second network elements are included  
2 in an intelligent network providing multimedia services.
- 1 15. The system of claim 14, wherein the message identifies one of an announcement,  
2 video, music, fax and data.
- 1 16. A message for communicating a plurality of menu items to a network element, the  
2 message comprising:  
3 a plurality of media identifiers, each media identifier identifying a menu item; and  
4 at least one of the plurality of media identifiers including a menu offset used to  
5 identify another one of the plurality of media identifiers in response to a user input.
- 1 17. The message of claim 16, wherein each menu item includes one of an announcement  
2 and an action item.
- 1 18. The message of claim 16, wherein each media identifier includes a first section and a  
2 second section; wherein the first section identifies one of a stored media file retrieved  
3 by a network element and an action item performed by the network element, and the  
4 second section identifies a media file type of the stored media file when the first  
5 section identifies the stored media file.
- 1 19. A method of processing a message for communicating between network elements, the  
2 message having a format including a plurality of media identifiers, each media  
3 identifier identifying one of a media file and an action item, the method comprising  
4 steps of:  
5 receiving the message and storing the message in memory;  
6 decoding a first media identifier of said plurality of media identifiers, the first media  
7 identifier including a menu offset;  
8 receiving a user input; and  
9 selecting a second media identifier of said plurality of media identifiers to decode  
10 based upon the user input and the menu offset.

1     21. The method of claim 20, wherein the first media identifier identifies an  
2     announcement prompting the user to select one of a plurality of the menu items and  
3     further comprising a step of playing the announcement to the user after decoding the  
4     first media identifier.

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